

because, he said, he came from a trustworthy family. His father was a North Korean intelligence agent, as were the parents of many of his fellow guards.

In his training to work in the camps, An said, he was ordered, under penalty of becoming a prisoner himself, never to show pity. It was permissible, he said, for bored guards to beat or kill prisoners.

"We were taught to look at inmates as pigs," said An, 41, adding that he worked in the camps for seven years before escaping to China in 1994. He now works in a bank in Seoul.

The rules he enforced were simple. "If you do not meet your work quota, you do not eat much," he said. "You are not allowed to sleep until you finish your work. If you still do not finish your work, you are sent to a little prison inside the camp. After three months, you leave that prison dead."

An said the camps play a crucial role in the maintenance of totalitarian rule. "All high-ranking officials underneath Kim Jong Il know that one misstep means you go to the camps, along with your family," he said.

Partly to assuage his guilt, An has become an activist and has been talking about the camps for more than a decade. He was among the first to help investigators identify camp buildings using satellite images. Still, he said, nothing will change in camp operations without sustained diplomatic pressure, especially from the United States.

INCONSISTENT U.S. APPROACH

The U.S. government has been a fickle advocate.

In the Clinton years, high-level diplomatic contacts between Washington and Pyongyang focused almost exclusively on preventing the North from developing nuclear weapons and expanding its ballistic missile capability.

President George W. Bush's administration took a radically different approach. It famously labeled North Korea as part of an "axis of evil," along with Iran and Iraq. Bush met with camp survivors. For five years, U.S. diplomats refused to have direct negotiations with North Korea.

After North Korea detonated a nuclear device in 2006, the Bush administration decided to talk. The negotiations, however, focused exclusively on dismantling Pyongyang's expanded nuclear program.

In recent months, North Korea has reneged on its promise to abandon nuclear weapons, kicked out U.N. weapons inspectors, exploded a second nuclear device and created a major security crisis in Northeast Asia.

Containing that crisis has monopolized the Obama administration's dealings with North Korea. The camps, for the time being, are a non-issue. "Unfortunately, until we get a handle on the security threat, we can't afford to deal with human rights," said Peter Beck, a former executive director of the U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea.

A FAMILY'S TRIBULATIONS

Kim Young Soon, once a dancer in Pyongyang, said she spent eight years in Camp 15 during the 1970s. Under the guilt-by-association rule, she said, her four children and her parents were also sentenced to hard labor there.

At the camp, she said, her parents starved to death and her eldest son drowned. Around the time of her arrest, her husband was shot for trying to flee the country, as was her youngest son after his release from the camp.

It was not until 1989, more than a decade after her release, that she found out why she had been imprisoned. A security official told her then that she was punished because she had been a friend of Kim Jong Il's first wife

and that she would "never be forgiven again" if the state suspected that she had gossiped about the Dear Leader.

She escaped to China in 2000 and now lives in Seoul. At 73, she said she is furious that the outside world doesn't take more interest in the camps. "I had a friend who loved Kim Jong Il and for that the government killed my family," she said. "How can it be justified?"

HONORING JACK NYIRI

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the selfless service Jack Nyiri has performed throughout his lifetime for the Boy Scouts of America, specifically the Cub Scout organization.

The aims of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—are so very important to developing the next generation of American citizens. But these aims cannot be accomplished without the dedication of individuals like Jack Nyiri, who are willing to part with their own time and effort for the good of our children.

After participating in both Cub and Boy Scouting in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Nyiri dove into leading Cub Scout packs and participating in the administration of scouting across at least three different states. His steadfastness and excellence has been recognized through many of scouting's highest awards, as he has more than lived up to the Cub Scout motto—"Do your best."

Nowhere is Mr. Nyiri's dedication more tangible than in the success of Bus Scout Pack 96, based in Nashville, Tennessee. His leadership has built this pack into a strong and vibrant organization, and the scouts and parents of Pack 96 have expressed to me their extreme gratefulness for Mr. Nyiri's tenure as the Pack Leader.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Jack and ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his accomplishments.

JEREMIAH MEYER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremiah Meyer of Liberty, Missouri. Jeremiah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 215, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeremiah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeremiah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. He was also the recipient of the Eagles Soaring High award.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremiah Meyer for his ac-

complishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Project Name: Elevated Water Tank Construction

Requesting Member: Congressman JO BONNER

Bill: Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: Housing & Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The City of Atmore, AL

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 East Louisville Avenue, Atmore, AL 36502

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$350,000 for engineering and construction of a 500,000 gallon elevated water tank to provide a potable water supply and fire protection for the City of Atmore's industrial development park and will also augment existing water service to the Holman Correctional Institute by providing backup water supply. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,000,000. Approximately, \$75,000 [or 21%] of the earmark is expected to be used for engineering; \$25,000 [or 7%] for environmental assessment; \$50,000 [or 14%] for in ground lines and infrastructure connected to the tower; and \$200,000 [or 58%] for construction of the tower itself. The City of Atmore will provide a minimum of a 45/55 cost share and this funding will come directly from the City.

Project Name: Atmore Airport Access Road, Runway Lights, and Safety Improvements, AL
Requesting Member: Congressman JO BONNER

Bill: Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: Airport Improvement Program

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The City of Atmore, AL

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 East Louisville Avenue, Atmore, AL 36502

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$475,000 for engineering and improvements to Atmore's airport, including construction of an access road to the airport terminal, rehabilitation of the airport runway lights, and improved safety zones at and surrounding the airport. The total project cost is estimated to be approximately \$2,300,000, of which \$1,140,000 was appropriated in FY2009. This appropriation should complete the project. Approximately, \$75,000 [or 16%] of this year's earmark will be used for engineering; \$100,000 [or 21%] for replacement lights and electrical equipment; and the remaining \$300,000 [or 63%] will be used for construction. The City of Atmore will provide the required federal match. Improvements to runway lights and correction of grading in the safety zone area will enhance safety to the flying public while complying with FAA regulations.

Project Name: Mobile Downtown Airport Taxiway A Improvements, AL